

Appln No. 10/760201
Amdt. Dated: December 07, 2006
Response to Office Action of October 27, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's final Office Action of October 27, 2006 the Applicant respectfully submits the Amendment to the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

claim 8 is amended to omit "the" from "the support member" and "the associated fluid distribution members" to clarify that term "respective" refers to the integrated circuits, support member and associated fluid distribution members; and
claims 1-7 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Regarding 35 USC 112, second paragraph Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendment to claim 8 to omit "the" from "the support member" and "the associated fluid distribution members" to clarify that term "respective" refers to the integrated circuits, support member and associated fluid distribution members, provides sufficient antecedent basis in this claim.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of pending independent claim 1, and claims 2-8 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by Silverbrook '082 in view of one or more of Silverbrook '155 and Wong, for at least the following reasons.

In the Response to Arguments section of the present final Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Silverbrook '155 "clearly states the invention provides an array of abutting printhead modules in a page width printer with each comprising[sic] print chips having a plurality of MEMS printing device thereon (Paragraphs 0013-0015)", and therefore concludes that Silverbrook '155 discloses a printhead assembly having at least two printhead modules, each module having at least two printhead integrated circuits, as is required in the claimed invention.

The Applicant disagrees with this conclusion for the following reasons. The Examiner is reminded that in raising an obviousness rejection the disclosure of each reference must be considered as a whole (see MPEP §2141 II). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that on considering the whole disclosure of Silverbrook '155 one of ordinary skill in the art would clearly understand that the terms "printhead module" and "print chip" are used interchangeably to describe the printhead assembly depicted, for example, in Figs. 6 and 12 of Silverbrook '155.

That is, Silverbrook '155 discloses at paragraph [0006] that the "invention relates to an array of abutting print chips or modules", at paragraph [0008] that "a printhead module [is] comprised of a "Memjet" chip", at paragraph [0010] that "ten modules butt together to form a complete eight inch printhead assembly suitable for printing A4 paper" and at paragraph [0066] that "the printhead is typically 203 mm long and has ten print chips" (emphasis added). This interchanging of the two terms is also clear from the similarity of

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the descriptions provided, for example, at paragraphs [0009], [0013]-[0016] and [0021], when the assembly of either the modules or chips is discussed.

Thus, independent of what the printhead elements 27 in Silverbrook '155 are called, it remains that Silverbrook '155 merely discloses abutting individual printhead elements 27 along a common ink distribution stack 36 (see paragraphs [0068]-[0073] and [0089] of Silverbrook '155).

Therefore, no combination of Silverbrook '155 and '082 (and Wong) would result in the printhead assembly of the claimed invention, for at least the above-discussed reasons and those discussed by the Applicant in the Reply to the previous Office Action(s).

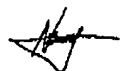
It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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